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Title: METHODS AND SYSTEMS FOR DETERMINING A CRITICAL DIMENSION AND A THIN FILM CHARACTERISTIC OF A SPECIMEN

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

The captioned application is a continuation application pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b) from prior application 09/956,852 filed September 20, 2001. Prior to initial examination of the captioned matter, please amend the case as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 32 of this paper.

Conclusion begins on page 33 of this paper.